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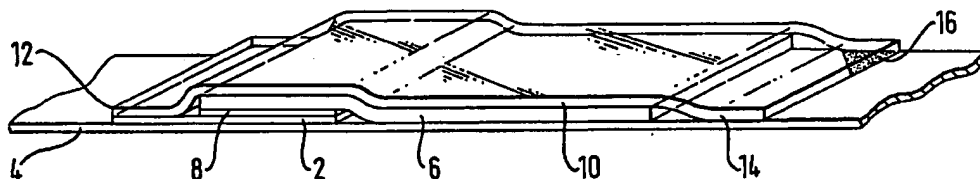
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(54) Title: LABELS AND LABELLED CONTAINERS



## (57) Abstract

Labels for cylindrical containers having small radii and surface areas and to containers provided with such labels. A label comprising a support piece; a multilaminar portion arranged on a front surface of the support piece and having at least a top sheet and a back sheet which are substantially longer than the support piece; and an overlamine arranged on the top sheet of the multilaminar portion, the overlamine comprising two opposed edge portions, one of which is adhered to the support piece. When applied to a container, the overlamine and at least the top sheet and back sheet of the multilaminar portion are wrapped more than once around the outer surface of the container, and the rear surface of the other of the opposed edge portions of the overlamine is releaseably adhered to a front surface of the directly underlying overlamine.

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## LABELS AND LABELLED CONTAINERS

The present invention relates to labels, and in particular to labels for cylindrical containers having small radii and surface areas and to containers provided with such labels. The labels of the present invention have particular application in the labelling of pharmaceutical products.

Leaflet labels or booklet labels are known in the art and a typical label construction is disclosed in US Patent No. 5,299,403 in the name of David J. Instance. In such labels, an individual folded leaflet or booklet is carried on a self-adhesive base or support piece which itself is releaseably adhered to a backing of release material. The folded leaflet is often overlaminated with a self-adhesive transparent plastics layer. The folded leaflet or booklet provides a large surface area for carrying printed information which is greater than the surface area of the footprint of the label.

In the case of labelling containers which have relatively small radii and surface areas such as small phials containing a small quantity of a pharmaceutical product, the inventor of the present invention has recognised the following problem with the conventional leaflet or booklet labels and the conventional application thereof to products. Namely, the restriction on the size of each sheet of the leaflet or booklet dictated by the small radii and surface area of the container has the result that the folded leaflet or booklet has to be made relatively thick to provide all the information required

in a manner easily readable even to users with relatively poor sight. The presence of a thick booklet on the outside of a product is disadvantageous with respect to efficient packing of the product, and the increased thickness of the booklet or folded leaflet means that there is a greater chance of the booklet or leaflet becoming accidentally torn away from the product.

It is therefore an aim of the present invention to provide a label and a labelled container with which the above-described drawbacks are overcome.

According to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a label comprising: a support piece; a multilaminar portion arranged on a front surface of the support piece and having at least a top sheet and a back sheet which are substantially longer than the support piece; and an overlamine arranged on the top sheet of the multilaminar portion, the overlamine comprising two opposed edge portions, one of which is adhered to the support piece.

According to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a self-adhesive label carried on a backing of release material, the self-adhesive label comprising: a support piece having a rear self-adhesive surface releasably adhered to the backing of release material; a multilaminar portion arranged on a front surface of the support piece and having at least a top sheet and a back sheet which are substantially longer than the support piece; and an overlamine arranged on the top sheet of the multilaminar portion, the overlamine comprising two opposed edge portions, one of which being adhered to the front surface of the support

piece, and the other of which being releaseably adhered to the backing of release material.

The top sheet of the support piece is preferably sufficiently longer than the support piece such that the label can be wrapped around onto itself such that the other of the opposed edge portions becomes adhered to a front surface of the overlamine over the multilaminar portion without a rear surface of the support piece overlapping a front surface of the overlamine.

In other words, the top sheet of the support piece is preferably sufficiently longer than the support piece such that the label can be wrapped around onto itself such that the other of the opposed edge portions becomes adhered to, and the multilaminar portion directly overlies, a front surface of the overlamine over the multilaminar portion.

According to a third aspect, there is provided a label comprising: a support piece; a multilaminar portion arranged on a front surface of the support piece and having at least a top sheet which is at least twice as long as the support piece; and an overlamine arranged on the top sheet of the multilaminar portion, the overlamine comprising two opposed edge portions, one of which is adhered to the support piece.

According to a fourth aspect, there is provided a self-adhesive label carried on a backing or release material, the self-adhesive label comprising: a support piece having a rear self-adhesive surface releaseably adhered to the backing of release material; a multilaminar portion arranged on a front surface of the support piece

and having at least a top sheet which is at least twice as long as the support piece; and an overlamine arranged on the top sheet of the multilaminar portion, the overlamine comprising two opposed edge portions, one of which being adhered to the front surface of the support piece, and the other of which being releaseably adhered to the backing of release material.

According to a fifth aspect of the present invention, there is provided a labelled container for pharmaceuticals comprising: a container having an outer circular surface; a label support piece having a rear surface adhered to the outer surface of the container and whose length is shorter than the circumference of the outer surface of the container; a multilaminar portion arranged on a front surface of the label support piece and having at least a top sheet and a back sheet which are longer than the circumference of the outer surface of the container; and an overlamine arranged on the top sheet of the multilaminar portion, the overlamine comprising two opposed edge portions, one of which is adhered to the label support piece; wherein the overlamine and at least the top sheet of the multilaminar portion are wrapped more than once around the outer surface of the container, and the rear surface of the other of the opposed edge portions of the overlamine is releaseably adhered to a front surface of the directly underlying overlamine.

According to a sixth aspect, there is provided a labelled container for pharmaceuticals comprising: a container having an outer circular surface; a label support piece having a rear surface adhered to the outer surface of the container and whose length is shorter than the

circumference of the outer surface of the container; a multilaminar portion arranged on a front surface of the label support piece and having at least a top sheet which is at least twice as long as the circumference of the outer surface of the product; and an overlamine arranged on the top sheet of the multilaminar portion, the overlamine comprising two opposed edge portions, one of which is adhered to the label support piece; wherein the overlamine and at least the top sheet of the multilaminar portion are wrapped more than once around the outer surface of the container, and the rear surface of the other of the opposed edge portions of the overlamine is releaseably adhered to a front surface of the directly underlying overlamine.

In each of the above-described aspects of the present invention, the multilaminar portion is preferably a booklet or a folded leaflet. Furthermore, the overlamine is preferably adhered to the top sheet of the multilaminar portion.

Embodiments of the present invention will be described hereunder, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying figures, in which:-

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a label carried on a backing of release material according to a first embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of a label carried on a backing of release material according to a second embodiment of the present invention; and

Figure 3 is a cross-sectional view of a labelled product according to a third embodiment of the present invention.

With reference to Figure 1, the label according to a first embodiment of the present invention comprises a support piece 2 having a rear self-adhesive surface which is releaseably adhered to a backing of release material 4. A multilaminar portion 6 is adhered at one longitudinal edge thereof to the front surface of the support piece 2 by a layer of a permanent adhesive 8. Although not shown in the Figures, the multilaminar portion may, for example, be a folded leaflet or a multi-page booklet. Each sheet of the multilaminar portion is about twice as long as the support piece.

A self-adhesive transparent plastics overlamine 10 is applied to the top sheet of the multilaminar portion 6 whereby it is adhered to the top sheet of the multilaminar portion 6. One edge portion 12 of the overlamine 10 is permanently adhered (in the sense that it is not intended to be removed from the support piece) to the support piece 2. The other edge portion 14 of the overlamine 10 is releaseably adhered to the backing of release material 4.

The rear surface of one corner 16 of the edge portion 14 of the overlamine 10 which is releaseably adhered to the backing of release material is modified by the application of ink such that is rendered non-adhesive. This has the advantage that the edge portion 14 of the overlamine 10 is rendered further readily peelable from the underlying surface to which it is adhered thereby facilitating the action of opening the label. The user simply grabs the non-adhesive corner 16 of the edge portion 14 and pulls whereby the label can be opened.



This advantage could also be achieved by the application of a piece of non-adhesive paper to the rear surface of the corner 16 of the edge portion 14. Such a piece of paper could be an integral part of the top sheet of the multilaminar portion 6 in the form of a tab protruding from the top sheet.

The label according to a second embodiment of the present invention as shown in Figure 2 is identical to the label shown in Figure 1 except that there is no layer of adhesive between the multilaminar portion 6 and the support piece 2, i.e. the multilaminar portion is not adhered to the support piece; it is only attached to the support piece 2 via the overlamine 10.

With reference to Figure 3, the labelled container according to a third embodiment of the present invention comprises a label of the construction shown in Figure 2 applied to a cylindrical container 20.

The self-adhesive support piece 2 (which is indicated as a hashed layer for clarity) is partially wrapped around (i.e. no more than 360 degrees) the outer cylindrical surface 22 of the container 20. The length of the support piece 2 is determined such that it is shorter than the circumference of the outer cylindrical surface 22 of the container 20 to which it is adhered. The laminate unit comprising the multilaminar portion 6 and the overlamine 10 (indicated as a shaded layer for clarity) is wrapped around the container more than once (i.e. at least more than 360 degrees) such that the rear self-adhesive surface of the edge portion 14 of the overlamine 10 is releaseably adhered to the front surface of the directly underlying wrap 18 of the

overlamine 10. In Figure 3, the laminate unit comprising the multilaminar portion 6 and the overlamine 10 are wrapped one and three quarter times around the container. The laminate unit may however be wrapped around the container as many times as desired.

The label is opened by grabbing the non-adhesive corner 16 (not shown in Figure 3) of the edge portion 14 of the overlamine 10 and peeling the edge portion 14 of the overlamine 10 away from the front surface of the directly underlying wrap 18 of the overlamine 10. The label can then be unwound from the surface of the container 20 thus providing access to the information in the multilaminar portion 6. The label can be subsequently reclosed by rewrapping the laminate unit comprising the multilaminar portion 6 and the overlamine 10 around the container and readhering the rear surface of the edge portion 14 of the overlamine 10 to the front surface of the directly underlying wrap 18 of the overlamine 10.

## CLAIMS

1. A label comprising:
  - a support piece;
  - a multilaminar portion arranged on a front surface of the support piece and having at least a top sheet and a back sheet which are substantially longer than the support piece; and
  - an overlamine arranged on the top sheet of the multilaminar portion, the overlamine comprising two opposed edge portions, one of which is adhered to the support piece.
2. A label according to claim 1 wherein the top sheet and the back sheet of the support piece are sufficiently longer than the support piece such that the label can be wrapped around onto itself such that the other of the opposed edge portions becomes adhered to a front surface of the overlamine over the multilaminar portion without a rear surface of the support piece overlapping a front surface of the overlamine.
3. A label according to claim 1 wherein the top sheet and the back sheet of the support piece are sufficiently longer than the support piece such that the label can be wrapped around onto itself such that the other of the opposed edge portions becomes adhered to, and the multilaminar portion directly overlies, a front surface of the overlamine over the multilaminar portion.
4. A label according to claim 2 or claim 3 wherein the top sheet and the back sheet of the multilaminar portion are at least twice as long as the support piece.

5. A label according to any preceding claim wherein the top sheet and back sheet of the multilaminar portion have the same length.

6. A label according to any preceding claim wherein the multilaminar portion comprises a booklet or a folded leaflet.

7. A label comprising:

a support piece;

a multilaminar portion arranged on a front surface of the support piece and having at least a top sheet which is at least twice as long as the support piece; and

an overlamine arranged on the top sheet of the multilaminar portion, the overlamine comprising two opposed edge portions, one of which is adhered to the support piece.

8. A self-adhesive label carried on a backing or release material, the self-adhesive label comprising:

a support piece having a rear self-adhesive surface releaseably adhered to the backing of release material;

a multilaminar portion arranged on a front surface of the support piece and having at least a top sheet and a back sheet which are substantially longer than the support piece; and

an overlamine arranged on the top sheet of the multilaminar portion, the overlamine comprising two opposed edge portions, one of which being adhered to the front surface of the support piece, and the other of which being releaseably adhered to the backing of release material.

9. A self-adhesive label according to claim 8 wherein the top sheet and back sheet of the multilaminar portion are sufficiently longer than the support piece such that the label can be wrapped around onto itself such that the other of the opposed edge portions becomes adhered to a front surface of the overlamine over the multilaminar portion without a rear surface of the support piece overlapping a front surface of the overlamine.

10. A self-adhesive label according to claim 8 wherein the top sheet and back sheet of the multilaminar portion are sufficiently longer than the support piece such that the label can be wrapped around onto itself such that the other of the opposed edge portions becomes adhered to, and the multilaminar portion directly overlies, a front surface of the overlamine over the multilaminar portion.

11. A self-adhesive label according to claim 9 or 10 wherein the top sheet and back sheet of the multilaminar portion are at least twice as long as the support piece.

12. A self-adhesive label according to any of claims 8 to 11 wherein the top sheet and back sheet of the multilaminar portion have the same length.

13. A self-adhesive label according to any of claims 8 to 12 wherein the multilaminar portion is a booklet or a folded leaflet.

14. A self-adhesive label carried on a backing or release material, the self-adhesive label comprising:

a support piece having a rear self-adhesive surface releaseably adhered to the backing of release material;

a multilaminar portion arranged on a front surface of the support piece and having at least a top sheet which is at least twice as long as the support piece; and

an overlamine arranged on the top sheet of the multilaminar portion, the overlamine comprising two opposed edge portions, one of which being adhered to the front surface of the support piece, and the other of which being releaseably adhered to the backing of release material.

15. A labelled container for pharmaceuticals comprising:

a container having an outer circular surface;

a label support piece having a rear surface adhered to the outer surface of the container and whose length is shorter than the circumference of the outer surface of the container;

a multilaminar portion arranged on a front surface of the label support piece and having at least a top sheet and a back sheet which are longer than the circumference of the outer surface of the product; and

an overlamine arranged on the top sheet of the multilaminar portion, the overlamine comprising two opposed edge portions, one of which is adhered to the label support piece;

wherein the overlamine and at least the top sheet and back sheet of the multilaminar portion are wrapped more than once around the outer surface of the container, and the rear surface of the other of the opposed edge portions of the overlamine is releaseably adhered to a front surface of the directly underlying overlamine.

16. A labelled container for pharmaceuticals comprising:

a container having an outer circular surface;

a label support piece having a rear surface adhered to the outer surface of the container and whose length is shorter than the circumference of the outer surface of the container;

a multilaminar portion arranged on a front surface of the label support piece and having at least a top sheet which is at least twice as long as the circumference of the outer surface of the product; and

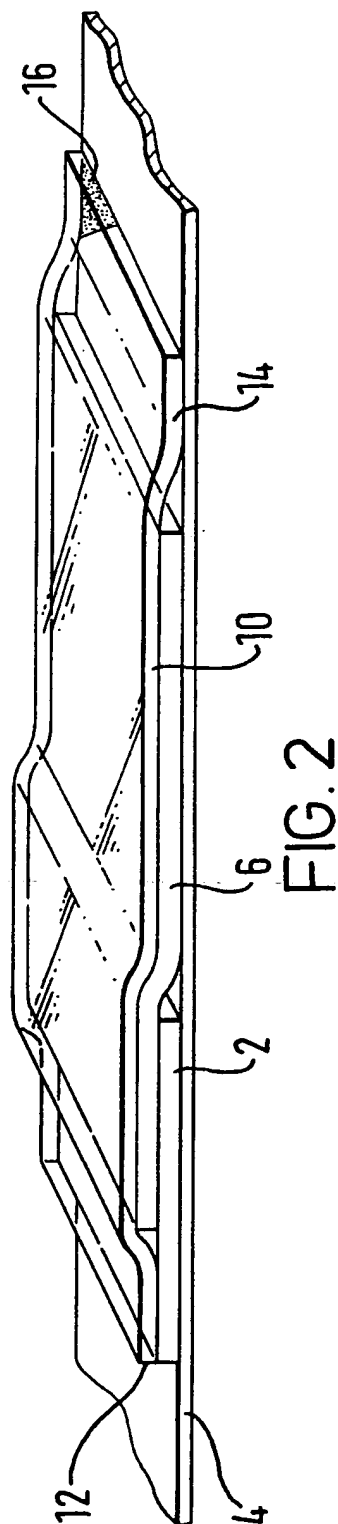
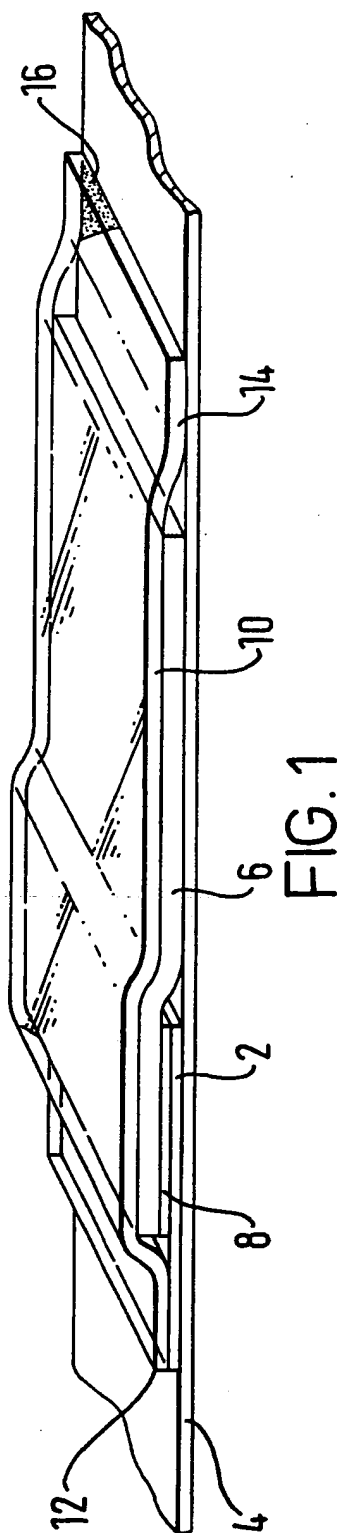
an overlamine arranged on the top sheet of the multilaminar portion, the overlamine comprising two opposed edge portions, one of which is adhered to the label support piece;

wherein the overlamine and at least the top sheet of the multilaminar portion are wrapped more than once around the outer surface of the container, and the rear surface of the other of the opposed edge portions of the overlamine is releaseably adhered to a front surface of the directly underlying overlamine.

17. A labelled container according to claim 15 or claim 16 wherein the multilaminar portion is a booklet or a folded leaflet.

18. A label as substantially hereinbefore described with reference to Figure 1, Figure 2 or Figure 3 of the accompanying drawings.

19. A labelled product as substantially hereinbefore described with reference to Figure 1 or 2 and Figure 3.





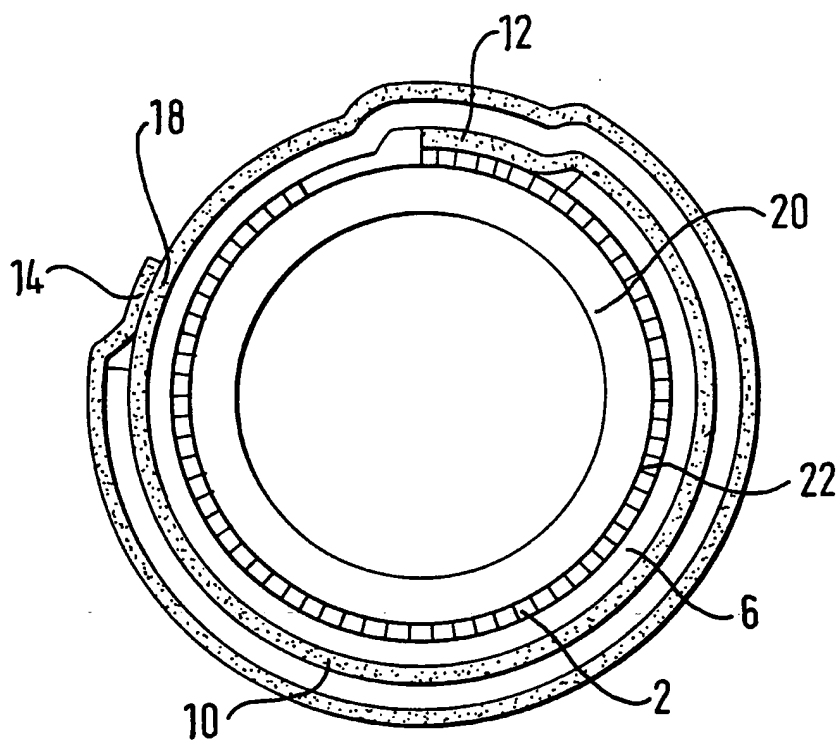


FIG. 3

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 00/01630

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G09F3/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G09F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	GB 2 303 351 A (INSTANCE LTD DAVID J) 19 February 1997 (1997-02-19)	1-3, 5, 6, 8-10, 12, 13
Y	page 5-7; figures 4, 7 ----	15-17
Y	WO 98 14928 A (COLUMBUS S A S DI SILVIO ZONI ; ZONI SILVIO (IT); ZONI BARBARA (IT)) 9 April 1998 (1998-04-09)	15-17
A	page 5, line 20 -page 9, line 13; figures 2-7 -----	1
A	US 4 312 523 A (HAINES RUSSELL R) 26 January 1982 (1982-01-26) column 2, line 24 -column 3, line 26; figures 1-7 -----	1, 4, 7, 14-16

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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20 July 2000

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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